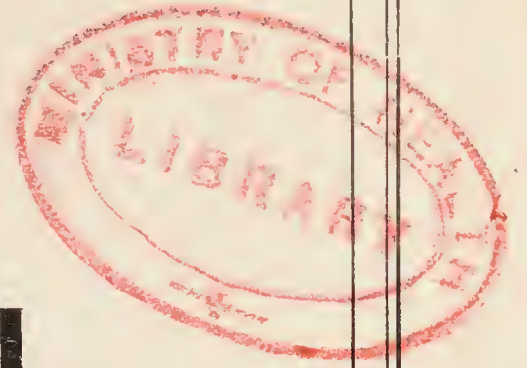


Whitstable

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1937





Whitstable Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1937.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WHITSTABLE.

May, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the
WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you my Eighth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	...	...	...	...	8,283 acres
" " " " (before 1934)	...	...	...	...	794 "
Population at Census 1931	...	...	...	...	10,820
" (estimated mid-1936)	...	...	...	...	15,300
" (estimated mid-1937)	...	...	...	...	15,540
Number of persons per acre (old area)	...	...	...	...	14.56
" " " " " (new area)	...	...	...	...	1.87
" " Houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,466
" " Inhabited houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,105
" " Houses 1937	...	...	...	...	4,412
" " Inhabited houses 1937	...	...	...	...	3,980
" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	...	3,327
Rateable Value 1936	...	...	...	...	£134,313
" " 1937	...	...	...	...	£138,441
Sum represented by a penny rate 1936	...	...	...	...	£500
" " " " 1937	...	...	...	...	£525

AREA.—The area of the Urban District as constituted on 1st April, 1934, is 8,283 acres, made up as follows:—

Old Urban Area	{	Central Ward	...	...	78 acres
		East Ward	...	...	422 "
		West Ward	...	...	294 "
Added Area	{	Swalecliffe	...	...	927 "
		Whitstable-cum-Seasalter	...	...	4350 "
		Dunkirk (part)	...	...	936 "
		Graveney (part)	...	...	886 "
		Hernhill (part)	...	...	390 "
TOTAL					8283 "

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-1937 is 15,540. The estimate for mid-1936 was 15,300 and for the previous year, 15,140. The annual population increase has for the past few years been very low, notwithstanding the amount of building development which has taken place.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF AREA.—Whitstable is situated on the North Kent Coast in a bay of the same name. Parts of the old town are low lying and protected by sea walls, the mean level of which is 16 feet above ordnance datum. The lowest level of the district is 9.5 O.D. and the highest 222 O.D.

There is rising ground to the east and the southern part of the district consists of well wooded hills rising gradually from the sea and old town. To the West is a large area of marshland and in various parts farm land, mostly given over to pasture. The whole area drains towards the sea, through the Swalecliffe brook, Stream Dyke and the Red and White sluices at Seasalter. The subsoil is London clay. The climate is dry and bracing, the prevailing wind being south-westerly. During the first three months of the year the winds are often cold and keen but for the remainder of the year it is very sunny and warm.

The district has a reputation for its beneficial results in cases of tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. The Cottage Hospital receives many cases from London districts for convalescence. The district continues its development on residential lines, and also as a resort. House building is mostly in self-contained estates and at the eastern part of the district. Although there has been greater activity in the shipyards and an increase of shipping in the harbour, there is an urgent need of light industrial development.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.—These are as follows :—

	Acreage
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes	25.1
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts	1
Tankerton Castle	4
Westgate Terrace	0.66
West Cliff Slopes	2.5
West Beach Tennis Courts	1
Westmeads Recreation Ground	5
War Memorial	0.1
Belmont Sports Ground	6.8
Fox's Cross—new space	4
Prospect House Field	6.52
	— 56.69
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds, etc.	42.89 ac.
Playing Fields	13.8
	— 56.69 ac.

Under the Council's Town Planning Scheme, it is proposed to acquire as public open spaces 86 acres and to schedule as private open spaces a further 160 acres. Some progress has been made towards affecting the latter by agreements.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births—		Males	Females	Total	(Total for 1936)
Legitimate	...	81	75	156	
Illegitimate	...	5	4	9	
		—	—	—	
		86	79	165	(165)
		—	—	—	
Still Births—					
Legitimate	...	1	3	4	
Illegitimate	...	1	0	1	
		—	—	—	
		2	3	5	(9)
		—	—	—	

The birth-rate per 1000 population is :—

			Rate for 1936
Live Births	...	10.6	10.7
Still Births	...	0.32	0.58

DEATHS.	Males	Females	Total	(Total for 1936)
	96	99	195	197

The death-rate per 1000 population is :—

		Rate for 1936
Crude death-rate	...	12.5
Adjusted death-rate		9.0
		12.8
		9.2

The transferable deaths were :—

Inward—42. Outward—16.

The age distribution of total deaths was :—

Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65 and upwards
9	1	1	—	3	13	39	129

Of the death over 65, 37 were between 65 and 70, 58 between 70 and 80, 27 between 80 and 70 and 7 over 90.

CAUSES OF DEATH for 1937 and the four previous years are :—

	1937		1936		1935		1934		1933	
	Males	Females	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	I	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
Influenza	I	7	—	—	—	—	I	I	7	7
Encephalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	5	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
Other tuberculosis diseases ...	2	—	I	—	I	—	I	I	I	I
Syphilis	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—
General paralysis of the insane tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease ...	17	13	9	23	17	17	21	14	12	20
Diabetes	—	3	3	I	2	I	I	—	I	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	8	5	2	6	I	9	3	5	2	6
Heart disease	18	29	19	26	26	32	27	27	15	26
Aneurysm	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I
Other circulatory diseases ...	6	8	14	12	5	9	3	9	6	5

Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	3	2	7	3	3	3	5	1	2
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	3	—	2	2	—	—
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	2	1	4	—	2	—	2	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	2	1	4	2	4	3	2	5	1	2
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	4	4	5	3	3	9	6	6	1	3
Puerpural sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerpural causes	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc...	...	...	...	4	3	1	1	1	—	4	1	1	4
Senility	...	...	...	1	5	4	3	1	—	1	3	4	3
Suicide	...	...	...	2	—	—	1	2	1	4	1	—	—
Other violence	...	...	...	8	2	2	1	4	—	4	—	2	3
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	11	8	15	10	10	3	7	8	12	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	96	99	94	103	90	96	100	96	76	100

Table showing Deaths for each month in each Ward of the Urban District.

Month				East	Central	West	Seasalter East	Seasalter West	Swalecliffe	Total
January	...	...	...	2	5	6	2	1	2	18
February	...	..	...	6	2	5	2	1	—	16
March	...	...	...	7	2	1	1	1	1	13
April	...	...	...	2	7	2	1	—	1	13
May	...	...	...	4	3	—	2	—	—	9
June	...	...	...	2	2	1	—	—	—	5
July	...	..	...	4	3	2	1	1	1	12
August	...	...	...	2	3	1	—	1	3	10
September	...	...	...	4	4	2	1	2	1	14
October	...	...	..	6	3	4	2	1	—	16
November	...	..	...	5	1	3	—	—	1	10
December	...	...	...	8	4	1	—	2	2	17
				52	39	28	12	10	12	153
Add Transfers	...	..	...	10	16	10	3	1	2	42
				62	55	38	15	11	14	195

The next Table shows Deaths from certain groups of diseases during the ten years 1928-37.

Year	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory	All Causes
1928	3	6	11	1	19	48	140
1929	2	9	11	9	21	52	136
1930	1	9	4	3	18	51	155
1931	2	4	10	8	20	68	152
1932	3	6	7	4	19	56	138
1933	3	9	5	14	21	61	176
1934	4	8	15	2	35	74	196*
1935	2	7	11	—	34	82	186
1936	1	8	12	—	32	71	197
1937	—	10	9	8	30	75	195

*Extension of Urban boundaries this year.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, ages at death and causes of death are much the same as in previous years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year :—

		Males	Females	Total	(Total for 1936)
Legitimate	...	4	4	8	
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1	
		—	—	—	
		4	5	9	5
		—	—	—	

Death Rate of Infants under one year :—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	54.2
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...			51.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				111

The infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births for 1936 was 30.3

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1937.

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year	
England and Wales	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58	
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	—	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62	
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55	
London ...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	—	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60	
WHITSTABLE	10.6	0.32	9.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.77	0.00	54	

Maternal Mortality Rates per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).

	WHITSTABLE	England and Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.94
Others ...	0.00	2.17
TOTAL	0.00	3.11

The age and cause of death were as follows :—

5 hours—	Premature birth	(6 months foetus).
11 hours—	„ „	(7 „)
15 hours—	„ „	(7 „)
1 day—	„	
1 day—	„	
4 days—	Cardiac failure. Infantile convulsions.	
1 month—	Marasmus.	
2 months—	Heart failure. Respiratory failure. Meningitis (Pneumococcal).	
6 months—	Broncho-pneumonia.	

The death from Broncho-pneumonia occurred in premises where housing conditions generally were bad.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff engaged on public health work remains the same : myself, Medical Officer of Health, part-time; Mr. C. R. A. Martin, Chief Sanitary Inspector; his assistant, Mr. C. G. A. Rudd; and Clerk, Mr. P. Light. I would like to mention the disinfectors and outside general assistant, Mr. H. R. Johnson, with thirty years' service, retired on superannuation, his place being taken by Mr. P. K. Marsh.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements remain as described in previous Reports.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

All cases of infectious disease are removed to the Joint Hospital in the second ambulance of the local Ambulance Committee. As it may require to be used for other non-infectious cases, the ambulance is disinfected after each case.

There are two Ambulances in general use.

HOME NURSING.

General nursing is provided by the District Nursing Association, also by three private nurses. There are many periods during the year when the nursing services are inadequate.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are sent to the Isolation Hospital at West End, Herne Bay, at present managed by a Joint Committee of representatives from Herne Bay and Whitstable. It receives cases from both towns. If accommodation is available, arrangements are made to receive cases of Puerperal Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever, severe cases of Erysipelas and Measles.

Negotiations for the isolation of any cases of Smallpox occurring in the area at the Dover Corporation's hospital are still in progress.

Maternity and Child Welfare, and Tuberculosis Clinics are controlled by the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The work of laying new mains and the construction of an additional reservoir at Radfall was nearly complete at the end of the year, and the Sanitary Inspector was proceeding to require connection to new mains where they had hitherto been unavailable. The total cost of the scheme is £22,764, for the reservoir and land £6,744, and the mains £16,020. It will augment the pressure on the highest part of Tankerton, replace the existing unsatisfactory water supply at Radfall, and to a limited extent provide for other areas at present served only by rain-water.

Samples of both sources of public supply, viz., Canterbury water and the Mid-Kent supply of Yorkletts, are periodically taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. The chemical analyses are satisfactory. Both supplies have a fairly high degree of temporary hardness, the Mid-Kent being the highest, but are very suitable for drinking purposes.

The following is a summary of six recent bacteriological examinations :—

Samples with Organisms per c.c. at 22°C. ...	6
„ „ „ „ 37°C. ...	4
„ without B. coli (presumptive (in 100c.cs.)	5
Sample with „ (in 50c.cs.)	1*

* Further tests showed these were not typical B. coli and there was no evidence of faecal contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council have considered two schemes outlined by their Consultants for remedying the flooding of sewers in the town and providing sewerage to the added area. The first provided for the enlargement of certain town sewers, the erection of a

new pumping station in Station Road for foul sewage, the existing Diamond Road Station being reserved for surface water only; a new trunk sewer from Swalecliffe, following roughly the course of the Swalecliffe brook through Bogshole and Pye Alley; and a Pumping Station at Seasalter Cross to elevate the sewage from Seasalter up Church Lane to the trunk sewer terminating at Fox's Cross. This scheme it was proposed should be carried out in stages. It involved the purchase of additional land at Swalecliffe for extension of the Sewage Outfall Works and chlorination of the sewage. A second scheme, still before the Council, provides for the abandonment of the Sewage Works. An entirely new and enlarged gravitating main sewer is to be laid along Northwood Road from Diamond Road Pumping Station in place of the present 27in. rising main; a pumping station to be erected at Swalecliffe which will pump the sewage inland along the line of the Swalecliffe brook, into which the effluent from new works to be built would be discharged. Seasalter would drain to Seasalter Cross as before, but would be pumped up Joy Lane to communicate with a new sewer to be laid from that area. Then duplication and relaying of certain sewers in the town would be undertaken to deal with the flooding. I understand this second scheme differs from the first in that it cannot be carried out in stages, but must be done in one undertaking.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

A classified summary of inspections made during the year is as follows :—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections ...	6782
Inspection of dwelling-houses	612
„ „ slaughter-houses	1382
„ „ shops	366
„ „ workshops	55
„ „ bakehouses	32
„ „ dairies and cowsheds	111
„ „ van dwellings, etc.	1905
Visits to infected houses	135
„ „ works in progress	411
Miscellaneous visits	1773
Total number of notices served	405

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	9	3
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	46	7
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—
	—	—
Total ...	55	10
	—	—

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, etc. :—					
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	6	4
Sanitary Accommodation defective	...			3	1
„ „ „ insufficient	...			3	—
Other nuisances	...	...	...	5	5
				—	—
				17	10
				—	—

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Sanitary Inspector gives this most important duty his careful attention. His report shows the constant vigilance which is exercised. Especial care is also taken to check pollution from the shore to the extensive oyster beds which are situated in the Bay. Mr. Martin's determined efforts to bring a sanitary system to Seasalter have had this object in view as well as to prevent risk of injury to the health of inhabitants of that area and to the whole town from possible contamination of milk. It is with satisfaction that I am able to report at least a partial success for his work.

All milk producing and distributing premises are the subject of frequent inspection and this leads to improved conditions of cleanliness. There has been an enormous improvement in the standard of the milk supply in the last ten years.

VARIOUS.

No action has been necessary during the year in connection with the pollution of rivers and streams; nor for smoke abatement. This is a matter rarely affecting this area. The Sanitary Inspector in his report deals with the steps taken to deal with a nuisance from mineral dust emitted from a tarmac plant in the Harbour.

The sanitary condition and water supply of public elementary schools is satisfactory but in the numerous private schools, which the absence of a secondary school in the district renders necessary, conditions are not so good as they should be.

HOUSING.

Although the efforts of your health officers to eradicate insanitary dwellings from the area have not abated, progress in the year under review has been slow, and it seems unlikely that the five-year programme will be completed by the end of 1938, as was required by the Minister of Health. Some of the worst spots have been cleaned up, but there remain scattered through the town and added area many houses, in ones and twos, that are quite unfit for human habitation judging them according to modern enlightened standards of housing, and until these are removed, Whitstable cannot regard itself as free from reproach. Many of these are so small and cramped, worn out, damp and

devoid of essential conveniences and amenities, and often filthy and verminous, that to attempt to patch them up is a sheer waste of money. It also enables what is perhaps the most tragic side of housing to happen, the foisting on unsuspecting widows and old people at enormous prices of property that at the best can have only a short and troubled life.

During the year, six Demolition Orders were made out of eight represented, and seven Clearance areas declared. Twenty houses were demolished.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem in Whitstable. There is very little sub-letting by occupiers, although the number of larger houses being sublet by owners to two or more tenants appears to be increasing. Houses let in lodging Byelaws are being adopted to deal with this. But if there is no serious overcrowding, there is still a need for houses of low rents. The small bungalows in Swanfield Close for aged persons meet a real need, more especially because of their low rentals, rents albeit that are still too high for the accommodation provided. More of this type of dwelling should be built. Unless the Council carry out their housing responsibilities and build houses to let at rents which people can afford to pay, then high rents with accompanying conditions of poverty will subsist.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Scarlet Fever	23	16	27	29	35
Diphtheria	17	—	4	1	4
Enteric Fever	—	—	3		—
Erysipelas	2	3	3	6	3
Pneumonia	22	23	9	21	19
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	8	13	14	19	15
„ (other forms) ...	8	12	13	9	7
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—
Puerpural Fever	—	1	1	—	1
„ Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	1	212			
Whooping Cough	51	28	Not notifiable		

There have been no serious outbreaks of common acute infectious diseases and no deaths. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever were much the same as in previous years but there were considerably more cases of Diphtheria. From a blank year in 1936 and an average of four cases per annum for five preceding years the number of cases increased to 17; not an abnormal number—the incidence rate was 1.09 compared with 1.49 for England and Wales. The cases consisted mostly of two

Age Incidence, Distribution, etc. of Infectious Diseases notified during 1937.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and upwards	Cases notified in each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital
									East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward	Seasalter East	Seasalter West	Swalecliffe	
Scarlet Fever...	23	—	3	15	3	2	—	—	5	5	7	2	—	4	15
Diphtheria ...	17	—	1	9	3	4	—	—	11	5	—	—	1	—	17
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerpural Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	1	2	2	—	2	1	—
„ (other forms)...	8	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	22	—	4	—	—	5	4	9	10	9	2	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	51	1	30	18	—	1	—	1	19	13	6	9	2	2	—

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at commencement of 1937 ...	21	39	20	16	96
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1937 ...	4	4	3	5	16
Number of cases restored to the Register	—	1	—	—	1
Other additions ...	3	2	—	—	5
Number of cases removed from the Register during 1937 ...	4	7	3	6	20
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1937 ...	24	39	20	15	98

small outbreaks, both introduced from outside the district, one occurring at a Children's Convalescent Home and the other from a private house which involved several employees at a laundry. Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever were contracted out of the district and one was a "return" case. There were no cases of Enteric Fever or Puerpural Fever and only one case of Measles. Fifty-one cases of Whooping Cough were notified. 17 cases of Diphtheria and 15 of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The incidence rates of infectious disease per 1000 population of the urban district compared with those for England and Wales are as follows:—

	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Erysi- pelas	Pneu- monia
England & Wales	0.00	2.33	1.49	0.05	0.37	1.36
Whitstable	0.00	1.48	1.09	0.00	0.13	1.54

The incidence rate of Puerpural Fever for England and Wales per 1000 total births is 13.93; for Whitstable 0.00. The local rates per 1000 population for Measles and Whooping Cough are 0.06 and 3.28 respectively.

TUBERCULOSIS. A total of 22 cases were added to the Register during the year of which 16 were primary notifications. 20 cases were removed from the Register, 6 having left the district, 8 cured and 6 fatal, leaving a total of 98 cases on the Register.

SUMMARY.

There are a few points which stand out in this report:—

(1) A low birth-rate, which must not, however, be considered a disadvantage except that the majority of births registered have been in that section of the population which can ill-afford to support their present families.

(2) The low death-rate, 9.0 per 1000 of population, compared with 12.4 for England and Wales.

(3) The death-rate from all causes embraced under the heading maternal mortality has been nil compared with a figure of 2.17 for England and Wales.

There has been a slight fall in the death-rate from cancer, which has been rather high in previous years, due chiefly to the fact that a large number of people past middle age come and settle here.

The general health has been good through the year. There was a slight epidemic of influenza in the early months, but the mortality was light.

There has been a very noticeable freedom from the two common infectious diseases, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever,

A considerable amount of opposition has been encountered in dealing with slum clearance but in most cases the desired results have been obtained.

At the present time the most pressing question is that of dealing with the sewage or rather of preventing blocking of the sewers by storm water. This is a very large question which has not yet been settled, and I am afraid can only be carried out at very heavy cost as the engineers, so far, are unable to devise any way of dealing with the storm water without altering the whole sewage system, which unfortunately must mean a heavy addition to the rates, which are already much too high for a population a large proportion of whom are out of work and likely to remain so for a very considerable time as there is no industry in Whitstable which can possibly absorb the large amount of labour at present unemployed.

In conclusion I would take this opportunity of again thanking Mr. Martin for the invaluable assistance he is always ready to give me in every branch of the work and to stress the value of the work which he himself carries on for the benefit of the town, very often in the face of great difficulties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. ETHERIDGE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Whitstable Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1937.

THE CASTLE,
WHITSTABLE.

April, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Fourteenth Annual Report of the work carried out by my department during the year January 1st to December 31st, 1937.

1. General.

Number of Inspections	...	5639			
„ „ Reinspections	...	1143	Total ...	6782	
„ „ Complaints received	...	...	...	350	
„ „ Notices served to execute works:—					
Preliminary		386			
Statutory		19	Total ...	405	
„ „ Notices complied with by persons responsible (including those outstanding at the end of 1936)	...	...	...	339	
„ „ Notices complied with by Council in default				5	
„ „ Notices served under Housing Acts requiring information (Sect. 168 Housing Act, 1936)				12	
of Clearance Orders	...	...	—
„ „ Compulsory Purchase Orders	...		1		
„ „ Principal grounds (Sec. 41 Housing Act, 1936)	...	...	—
„ „ Time and Place for Demolition Orders	...	...	11		
„ „ Demolition Order	...	...	7		
to Vacate premises	...	...	7		
			Total —	38	

2. Housing Nuisances.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes repaired or renewed					5
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	35
Floor space covered with site concrete	...	...	...	...	5
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	30
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	20

Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Stoves renewed and repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Yards paved and drained	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	13
Outbuildings rebuilt	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	45

3. Drains, W.C's, Ashpits, Etc.

Drains relaid and repaired	...	...	...	...	65
,, ventilated	...	...	...	...	21
,, cleared	...	...	...	...	33
,, tested	...	...	...	...	138
Surface water drains laid	...	...	...	...	3
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	2
Houses connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	10
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	5
,, constructed	...	...	...	...	10
,, repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Pail closets converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	9
Movable sink waste receptacles abolished	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.s built	...	...	...	...	25
,, repaired	...	...	...	...	15
,, provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	40
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	32
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	9
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	100

4. Bakehouses.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	14
,, of Inspections	...	...	...	...	32
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	5
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	2

5. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	...	23
,, ,, Retail Purveyors on Register	...	...	...	17
,, ,, Registered Retailers with Milkshops	...	...	...	6
,, ,, Registered Retailers with premises outside urban district	...	...	...	3
,, ,, General Shops permitted to Sell in Sealed Bottles or Cartons	...	...	...	37
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	111
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	9
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	6

6. Slaughterhouses.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	2
„ „ Licensed	„	...	5
„ „ Inspections	...	...	1382
„ „ Defects found	...	...	7
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	5

7. Factories and Workshops.

Number of Workshops	...	...	74
„ „ Workplaces	...	...	42
„ „ Inspections	...	...	55
„ „ Defects found	...	...	12
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	8
„ „ Workshops cleansed	...	...	4

8. Water Supplies.

Number of samples taken for analysis—Chemical	15	
Bacteriological	1—	16
„ „ „ reported unfit	...	3
„ „ wells cleansed	...	2
„ „ „ closed	...	1
„ „ houses connected to mains during year as the result of action taken	...	13

9. Various.

Inspection of Butchers', Grocers', Fish, Fruit, Ice Cream, etc., Shops	...	366
„ under Shops' Acts	...	67
„ of Van Dwellings, Sheds, etc.	...	1905
„ „ Schools	...	5
Visits to works in progress	...	411
Watercourses cleansed, etc.	...	6
Offensive accumulations removed	...	48
Animals kept insanitary	...	2
Premises baited with rat poison	...	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits to Infected Houses	...	135
„ „ Rooms disinfected following Scarlet Fever	26	
„ „ „ „ „ Measles	17	
„ „ „ „ „ Tuberculosis	7	
„ „ „ „ „ Cancer	2	
„ „ „ „ „ Septicæmia	1	
„ „ „ „ „ Erysipelas	1	
„ „ „ „ „ Miscellaneous	54	

118

15 cases of Scarlet Fever and 17 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Number of articles disinfected in Steam Disinfector :—

Mattresses	...	...	...	110
Pillows	...	...	...	299
Sheets	...	...	...	93
Blankets	...	...	...	275
Quilts	...	...	...	42
Beds	...	...	...	17
Bedspreads	...	...	...	37
Bolsters	...	...	...	34
Cushions	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	277
Total				1186

Disinfection for the Cottage Hospital and Nursing Homes is carried out free of charge.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The public mortuary situated at the Island Wall Depot is under my control and assistance is provided for medical practitioners conducting post mortem examinations.

	Males	Females
No. of Bodies admitted—Resident	7	1
Non-resident	2	—
	9	1
No. admitted for Post-mortem exam.	6	
No. admitted for Inquest	7	
CAUSES OF DEATH :—		
Natural Causes	3	
Misadventure	6	
Suicide	1	
Total	10	

FOOD SUPPLY.

The following tables shew the quantity of unsound food condemned by me and the classification of diseases in carcasses and organs :—

Table 1.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	3	1	7
Veal	...	—	1	15
Mutton	...	1	—	4
Pork	...	12	2	5
Edible Organs	1	8	2	25
Fish	...	1	2	8
Miscellaneous	...	—	3	4
	2	8	1	12

Table II.
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
(i) Number killed	304	2	440	2862	2607
(ii) Number inspected ...	304	2	423	2389	2607
(iii) Number inspected in shops (killed outside district)	38	7	17	51	162
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
(iv) Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	1
(v) Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	33	—	1	11	39
*(vi) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	10.8	—	0.2	0.4	1.4
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
(vii) Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	3
(viii) Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	37	1	2	—	173
*(ix) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	12.1	50	0.4	—	6.7

*Refers to numbers in column (ii) only.

Five total carcases were condemned. Four pigs, three for generalized tuberculosis and one for asphyxiation, and one sheep for septicæmia.

The percentages of animals affected with tuberculosis in any degree were as follows :—

38 beasts,	a percentage of	12.4
2 calves	„	0.4
176 pigs	„	6.7

The percentage of pigs effected is again high.

Table II shows the number of animals examined during the year, including those killed in the urban district and those brought to shops from slaughterhouses outside the town. A proportion of the total of animals killed are for sale in Herne Bay.

Table III.

ORGANS.

DISEASES.	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Diaphragms	Livers	Spleens	Cauls	Mesenteries	Stomachs	Kidneys	Udders	WEIGHTS.			
													Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculosis	108	108	38	19	22	20	15	15	136	132	6	—	1	1	1	3
Septicaemia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	20
Echinococcycysts	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Pneumonia	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pleurisy	—	—	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	25
Pericarditis	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	2	8	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12
Necrosis	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	15
Pus formations	2	2	3	1	6	6	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	0
Pentastomi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2
Distomatosis	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	10
Strongylosis	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Asphyxiation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—
Total	112	112	77	30	32	108	18	17	143	137	10	—	1	8	2	25

Table IV.

Monthly Inspections of Animals, Slaughterhouses and Shops.

		Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Slaughterhouses	Shops
January	...	31	27	159	231	113	33
February	...	27	33	162	218	100	25
March	...	34	40	192	282	127	35
April ...	...	28	44	168	231	117	28
May ...	...	29	34	213	192	109	32
June ...	...	34	40	260	142	114	32
July ...	...	32	36	244	170	132	28
August	...	27	48	316	231	133	35
September	...	26	37	229	273	123	19
October	...	28	48	183	264	102	12
November	...	30	29	173	261	111	23
December	...	25	24	141	274	101	38
		351	440	2440	2769	1382	340

The totals for the five preceding years were :—

1936	...	6848
1935	...	6730
1934	...	6616
1933	...	5983
1932	...	5990

Much of the work of meat inspection had to be carried out after office hours, 131 evenings being devoted to this purpose during the past year.

155 certificates were issued to butchers for insurance purposes.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERING. There are five annually licensed and two registered slaughterhouses, and 15 slaughtermen licensed for one year under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Mechanically operated instruments are used for slaughtering all animals.

Notices of slaughter continue to be given promptly and regularly, and there were no breaches of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, during the year.

MILK SUPPLY. There are 23 registered cow-keepers in the area, two having been removed from the register during the year. The number of retail purveyors and premises registered is 17, several having discontinued business during the year. 37 shops are permitted to sell milk in the sealed bottles or cartons in which they receive it.

There are two Tuberculin Tested producers in the area and ten Accredited producers, one of whom has a bottling licence from the County Council. Milk is received from one Tuberculin Tested and two Accredited producers with premises outside the urban area. The Council have issued licences for the sale of graded milk as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	3	(2 Bottling Licences)
Accredited	...	1	(1 „ „ „)
Pasteurised (Dealer)	...	1	

I submitted to the County Laboratory 34 samples of milk from Accredited producers' premises; 8 failed to comply with the prescribed conditions; and 4 from Tuberculin Tested producers, one of which was below the standard. Two samples each of the grades on sale by retail were taken, both Tuberculin Tested samples complying but the two Accredited samples failing to comply. A further 18 samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, 13 of which were below accredited standards.

There was no occasion during the year for legal proceedings to be instituted under the Milk and Dairies Order. Among the

A regular supervision is maintained over all feed shops and

(a) Total	170
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(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for

housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Arts)	612
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	700
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	185
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	185
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	124

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Offices	116
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses were were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	11
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

D.—Proceeding under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
(ii) Number of families dwelling there	11
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	55

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 20

In addition to those houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, two others were demolished in anticipation of formal procedure. Three undertakings were accepted, one to refrain from using for human habitation and two to use for summer occupation only. There are four closing orders operative.

CLEARANCE AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS. Of the 53 houses and 7 other buildings included in the 12 Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed by the Minister, 26 houses remain to be demolished. 8 houses were demolished by the Council, 4 under a Compulsory Purchase Order and 4 in default of the owners under a Clearance Order, the costs in the last-named being recovered. A further 7 Clearance Areas, Nos. 16—21, were declared during the year, but no Orders made.

The following tables shows action taken, formal and informal, with respect to unfit houses.

Table VI.

	No. of Houses demolished	Part of buildings closed	Total No. of persons displaced
Formal action ... up to 31/12/30	12	—	43
Formal action ... since above date, per quarterly returns to Ministry of Health.	87	4	271
Informal action ...	33	15	80
Totals ...	135	19	394

A Compulsory Purchase Order under Part V of the Housing Act, 1936, for the acquisition of 15, Middle Wall for reconditioning was confirmed by the Minister. In this case, the house, one of a terrace, occupied by an aged and infirm person, afterwards certified, was obtained for £50 from the Receiver appointed under the Lunacy Act and thoroughly reconditioned at a cost of £120, thus making an excellent cottage now let at 9/- per week.

REHOUSING. Schemes of 22 bungalows for aged persons in Swanfield Close and 24 houses in Grimshill were under-

taken during the year, the former meeting a very real housing need. The Council have under consideration the erection of houses in the rural parts of the district, at Seasalter and Pye Alley or Clapham Hill, to provide for replacements and the undoubted shortage of houses for agricultural workers. I hope it will be possible to keep the rents sufficiently low to enable this class of labourer to pay them without making inroads into their slender incomes.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN. Action was taken for the eradication of bugs in 4 Council houses and 15 others. The Council houses and 9 others were disinfected by my staff, most of the latter at the cost of owners or occupiers. In 6 cases, notices were served on occupants to carry out necessary disinfestation and in two cases, verminous bedding and furniture was removed for destruction on certificates issued under Section 84 Public Health Act, 1936.

The worst infestations are houses and rooms occupied by aged and infirm persons, usually living alone in great poverty. These people can rarely be persuaded to enter an institution and there appears to be no power to enforce their removal other than certification as verminous persons under Section 85 Public Health Act, 1936. One elderly spinster was so certified and an Order for her removal for cleansing purposes obtained. Traffic in second-hand bedsteads and bedding is responsible for new infestations and reinfestations of premises previously treated. Disinfestation methods employed are steam treatment of bedding in the disinfector, sulphur fumigation and spraying of premises.

OVERCROWDING. 41 houses were measured and recorded for overcrowding purposes; one was found overcrowded. A great number of certificates of "permitted numbers" have been furnished to owners. Three cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year.

TEMPORARY BUILDINGS. The position with regard to wooden huts, stationary vehicles, etc., used for seasonal occupation as dwellings is as follows:—

			Huts.	Vehicles.	Houseboats.
At end of 1936	...	...	196	28	—
Added in 1937	...	...	1	2	1
Removed in 1937	...	...	2	7	1
At end of 1937	...	...	195	23	—

The type of structure which used to be known as a "temporary building" has disappeared from the law as a class, and power is now given to local authorities to deal with structures of that type under Section 53 Public Health Act, 1936, but the position with regard to existing structures seems to be as ambiguous as ever. For huts, the essential points are moveability and the applicability of the building bye-laws, and Section 269 of the Act does not appear to be designed to deal with them.

DRAINAGE.

There are two cesspools in the old urban district, all other property being connected to the sewers. 782 houses in the added area are also connected to sewers; 129 to the South Tankerton sewer, 178 to the North Tankerton sewer, 134 to the Chestfield sewer, 214 to the Swalecliffe sewer and the remainder into extensions of the urban sewerage system.

For the remainder of the added area, the following table shows the means of drainage provided:—

Table VII.

AREA.	Cesspools taking		Sink waste receptacles	Premises without sink drainage	Pail closets	Privy middens
	W.C.'s and waste water	Waste water only				
Swalecliffe	9	3	3	7	53*	—
Chestfield	45	—	31	6	35	—
Radfall	13	1	47	3	48	2
South Street	16	—	1	4	6	—
Millstrood	39	—	14	5	15	—
Canterbury Road ... (including Willow Wood and Wraike Hill)	76	9	36	9	57	2
Seasalter :—						
(a) Joy Lane to Jolly Sailor	32	—	2	—	2	—
(b) Granville Estate and Seasalter Cliff	81	1	24	4	40	—
(c) Jolly Sailor and U.D. Boundary ...	47	5	88	1	200†	1
Yorkletts	49	32	1	3	36	—
Total	407	51	247	42	492	5

*Includes 38 pail closets in huts at Seaview camp. †Includes 106 pail closets in huts at Seasalter

Early in the year, serious flooding occurred on the line of the sewer in Canterbury Road, Church Road, and Cromwell Road South, due to the sewer and its tributaries being surcharged with storm water. The Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Health Committee visited many of the flooded properties; cleansing and disinfection beneath the floors was carried out; water supplies were sampled. A comparatively dry winter has prevented a repetition, but it is a matter of urgency that steps should be taken to remedy these conditions.

PRIVY CLEANSING, SEASALTER. I regret that a proper system of cleansing the pail closets at Seasalter has not yet been arranged, and that proceedings had to be instituted under the special byelaw relating to the disposal of pail closet contents, but measures are being taken, I understand, to ensure that the byelaw will be complied with during the coming summer.

SEWAGE OUTFALL WORKS. Periodical samples of the effluent are taken and submitted to the County Analyst for chemical analysis. Of 6 samples submitted in 1937, with the exception of one reported "of poor quality," all were satisfactory.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE. 3 new surface water drains were laid, approximately 160 feet, to prevent flooding; 5 ditches were cleansed; 1 dam which was obstructing a ditch removed and a length of ditch at Rayham, approximately 500 feet, opened and cleansed by the Council, owners agreeing to pay their proportionate cost.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Financial data for house refuse collection and disposal are for the year ended 31st March, 1938.

REFUSE COLLECTION. There is a twice-weekly collection of house refuse, except in certain outlying parts of the district where it is collected once per week. A daily collection is made from the hotels during the summer, and also the Cottage Hospital. Trade refuse is collected twice weekly; street sweepings from the Highways Depot and refuse from huts at Whitstable, Tankerton and Seasalter. The service is carried on by four S.D. Freighters, two purchased in 1927, one in 1934 and one in 1937.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. The whole of the refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Yorkletts, on land purchased in 1936 by a Compulsory Purchase Order. The value of the land was referred to the Official Arbitrator who held an Inquiry on 13th July, 1938. The vendor's original claim was for £1,232/10/0, £732/10/0 for the land and £500 for severance and forced sale, amended at the Inquiry to a total of £702/5/0, £202/5/0 for the land and £500 for depreciation. The Official Arbitrator's award was for £285 and £30 costs.

The total quantity of refuse collected and disposed of was 4,436 tons 10 cwts.

				Tons	Cwts.
House Refuse	...	...	...	3902	15
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	389	15
Street Sweepings		...	...	144	0

FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH, 1938.

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Trade Refuse and Salvage	182	11	0
Highways Department :—			
Collection of Refuse from Slopes and Street Sweepings	30	0	0
	<u>£212</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Collection :—						
Labour	1269	10	7			
Petrol and Lubricants	225	1	4			
Garage Rent	17	8	0			
Repairs	84	7	11			
*Tyres	41	17	6			
Tax, Rates and Insurance	145	5	2			
Loan Repayment	141	3	4			
	<u> </u>			1924	13	10
Disposal :—						
Labour	336	15	10			
Water, Rates, etc.	33	4	0			
Miscellaneous	22	2	5			
	<u> </u>			392	2	3
				<u>2316</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>
Less Revenue				212	11	0
				<u>£104</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

* An item of £10/14/6 should be partially recoverable from the Insurance Company as it arose out of an accident.

The costs are an increase on last year made up chiefly by increase of men's wages, loan repayment on new collecting vehicle and fencing, planting, etc. at Disposal Site.

The annual costs per ton of refuse since the last Contract are as follows :—

1927-8	1928-9	1929-30	1930-1	1931-2	1932-3	1933-4	1934-5	1935-6
10/8.2	8/5.9	8/3	9/11	7/10.6	7/8.9	8/11.1	8/5.5	8/0.7
(Contract).								
	1936-7	1937-8						
	8/8.7	9/5.9						

Table VIII.
CLEANSING COSTS, 1937-38.

	Refuse Collection.		Refuse Disposal	TOTAL	
	Including Loan Charges	Excluding Loan Charges		Including Loan Charges	Excluding Loan Charges
(i) Gross Expenditure ...	£ s. d. 1924 13 10	£ s. d. 1783 10 6	£ s. d. 392 2 3	£ s. d. 2316 16 1	£ s. d. 2175 12 9
(ii) Gross Income ...	107 9 0	107 9 0	105 2 0	212 11 0	212 11 0
(iii) Net Cost ...	1817 4 10	1676 1 6	287 0 3	2104 5 1	1963 1 9
(iv) Gross Expenditure per ton...	8 8.1	8 0.2	1 9.2	10 5.3	9 9.4
(v) Gross Income per ton	5.8	5.8	5.6	11.4	11.4
(vi) Net Cost per ton ...	8 2.8	7 6.4	1 3.6	9 5.9	8 10.0
(vii) Net Cost per head of population ...	2 4	2 1.8	4.4	2 8.5	2 6.3
(viii) Net Cost per house...	7 7	6 11.8	1 2.3	8 9.3	8 2.1

Total quantity of refuse in tons (5 cwt. per cubic yard)	4436
Number of premises visited ...	4800
Population ...	15540
Petrol consumption (gallons) ...	3782
Approximate mileage	45384

SUPERVISION OF CAMPS.

Since 1934, when the extension of the urban boundaries brought many camping sites into the district, the insufficiency of sanitary arrangements have caused much anxiety. The licensing requirements of Section 269. Public Health Act, 1936, furnished local authorities with the much needed power to remedy unsatisfactory conditions and the following were the general requirements adopted by the Council for land licences :—

- (i) Site to be clearly defined in application; to be dry and otherwise suitable; all dykes, hedge bottoms, etc., to be periodically cleansed.
- (ii) Constant supply of drinking water; a sufficient number of standpipes to be provided.
- (iii) Properly covered receptacles in suitable positions for refuse; to be emptied daily.
- (iv) Orderly arrangement of tents and vans; arranged in lines with 15 feet space between each tent or van; not more than 40 tents or vans to the acre.
- (v) Where numbers permit, a camp warden to be kept for preserving cleanliness and sanitary conditions, otherwise it should be the duty of some one to go over the camp for cleansing purposes twice daily.
- (vi) Permanent sanitary accommodation consisting of a sufficient number of w.c.'s for both sexes connected to a properly constructed cesspool, 3,000 gallons capacity, for camps where the numbers are too large for privies. Accommodation may be augmented for a limited period, say month of August, but a sufficient number of chemical closets. Urinal accommodation also to be provided. For smaller camps where land is suitable for disposal of excreta, proper chemical closets to be installed.
- (vii) Adequate washing facilities to be provided by properly constructed ablution blocks, with drainage to sewer or cesspool for removal of waste water.

Application for licences were invited and 15 received; 12 were granted and 3 refused; permanent w.c.'s being a condition of 6 licences. Appeals were lodged against the condition requiring w.c.'s drainage and ablution blocks, both of which were heard early in 1938 and dismissed. The necessary work in all cases is now in hand.

One case of infectious disease was notified from a camp during the summer by a Herne Bay medical practitioner, who posted the notification. It was not received until the following morning and in the meantime the family had flown, none knew whither!

PORT SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Table IX.

—		Number	Ton- nage	Number inspec- ted	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as havng had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
FOREIGN ...	Steamers...	16	3596	3	—	—	—
	*Motor ...	10	1678	3	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ...		26	5274	6	—	—	—
COASTWISE	Steamers...	69	13864	22	1	—	—
	*Motor ...	51	6597	4	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	2	117	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise ...		122	20578	26	1	—	—
Total Foreign and Coast- wise		148	25852	32	1	—	—

The trade of the port is cargo traffic, imports of coal, slag, cement, stone, etc. Foreign ports from which vessels arrive are Antwerp, Neuport, Zeebrugge, Rotterdam, also the Channel Islands.

Water supply from the public main for filling ships' water tanks for the use of crews and labour employed and sanitary accommodation is provided on the harbour. Wharves, warehouses and other buildings are frequently inspected for rat infestation. One dilapidated store was demolished during the year.

Applications are received from time to time from Masters of vessels proceeding to Continental ports for Deratisation Exemption Certificates under Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. I approached the Ministry of Health to ascertain if Whitstable could be placed upon the list of ports empowered to certify. The reply was that insufficient shipping used the port to warrant this.

A curious feature regarding the status of Whitstable is that it forms part of the Port of Faversham and yet the bulk of the shipping comes to this harbour.

Table X.
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Acts, Byelaws, etc., under which legal proceedings were instituted.	Offence or Default.	Result.
Section 156, Housing Act, 1936.	Refusal to obey notice to vacate (C.P.O.)	Ejectment Order obtained.
Byelaw 55, New Streets and Buildings Byelaws.	Failing to give notice and deposit plans. (Two cases.)	Convictions and fines of £1 in each case.
Supplementary Byelaw 4, New Streets and Buildings Byelaws.	Failing to construct walls in good sound bricks, etc. (Two cases.)	do.
Section 62, Public Health Act, 1875.	Recovering cost of providing water supply in default.	Order for payment obtained with costs.
Byelaw 55, New Streets and Buildings Byelaws.	Failing to give notice and deposit plans. (Two cases.)	Convictions and fines of 10/- in each case.
Supplementary Byelaw 4, New Streets and Buildings Byelaws.	Failing to construct walls in good sound bricks, etc. (Two cases.)	do.
Section 155, Housing Act, 1936.	Refusal to obey notice to vacate. (Clearance order)	Ejectment Order obtained.
Supplementary Byelaw, Nuisances Series. do.	Depositing excreta from privies on beach. do. on land below Eight Feet Newlyn Datum. Ordinance Survey.	Conviction and fine of £1. do.

VARIOUS.

ISLAND WALL BEACH. As a scheme for the general improvement of the beach at Island Wall, the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Public Works Facilities Act for that part of the beach between the shipyards of Messrs. R. J. Perkins and Anderson, Rigden & Perkins, approximately one acre in extent. Admirably situated for development as a public amenity for the old part of the town, this beach, although it had a number of dilapidated stores upon it, had not been disfigured with monotonous rows of huts. In conjunction with the land facing Island Wall obtained by means of a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Housing Act, a very fine improvement might have been effected; but for reasons unknown, the Order was not confirmed and now there is every indication that more lines of huts will shut in the sea. A new slogan for visitors will soon be necessary: "Bring your own ladder and see the sea at Whitstable."

ALMA CORNER IMPROVEMENT. The Council have also made a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Public Works Facilities Act in respect of Alma Buildings, land in rear of houses in Middle Wall and stores in Island Wall, with the object of a road widening and clearing what is a particularly squalid area.

TOWN PLANNING INQUIRIES. I gave evidence at two Inquiries held during the year into appeals against the Council's refusal to grant Interim Development Orders. One in respect of Joy Cottages, the removal of which the Council desired and in fact obtained by action under the Housing Act after the Minister of Health had upheld the Town Planning Appeal, and another in respect of 18 beach huts at Seasalter, in which the Council's decision was upheld.

DUST NUISANCE, WHITSTABLE HARBOUR. Informal action was taken during the year to secure the abatement of a nuisance arising from the emission of fine mineral dust from the Tarmac Plant recently erected on Whitstable Harbour. Careful investigations were carried out—the maximum deposit of mineral dust on one of the series of prepared glass sheets over a number of tests was 1.12 tons per square mile—advice and assistance rendered to the owners of the plant, who are giving consideration to extra dust extracting apparatus.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. During October, I attended the Government Anti-Gas School at Falfield and obtained a first class Instructor's Certificate. I have commenced recruiting and instructing personnel. Such work is being carried out in my all-too short leisure hours.

OFFICE ROUTINE, ETC. Office work is increasing. Last year, in addition to notices served, over 1,200 letters were sent from my office. There is much night and Sunday work in connection with infectious disease, etc., and also early morning visitations for camp supervision, scavenging, etc.

CONCLUSION.

The year under review has been a most onerous one. I have no wish to recall incidents that are best forgotten, but in looking back upon a year's work I cannot refrain from commenting upon Housing Act administration and all the difficulties which have been encountered. It was never an easy task; it produces cases of hardship, some of them so real as to make one wonder if, after all, progress is worth the price of suffering. On the other hand, "hardship" can be a delusory principle; every measure of social reform from the abolition of slavery onwards has had its opponents and its cases of "hardship," and housing administration, we have to remember, is but another great national effort of uplift, doing the maximum amount of good to the people in

greatest need. I, therefore, make no apology for trying to raise the housing standard of this town, and the Council should indeed be proud of the progress made. No district in Kent can show greater evidence of housing activity or of a more practical interest in the welfare of the poorer classes.

There is, however, quite a different aspect. The clearance of dilapidated hovels and the opening up of congested areas have been the means of greatly improving the appearance of certain districts, once definitely slummy in character. I ask you to contrast Middle Wall with what it was ten years ago, or the grossly insanitary collection of shacks on the harbour land with present developments; then there are houses that are being built in Church Road, Joy Lane, etc.

I regret such a long and platitudinous conclusion to my report, but Whitstable badly needs such improvements as these. It has upwards of 2,000 working-class families, whose livelihood, now and in the future, depend almost entirely upon municipal progress.

I again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and in particular to the Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee, Councillor P. G. Edmondson. I also wish to thank my staff for their loyal assistance during the year, and in concluding, to remember the passing of Councillor A. A. Kemp, a man of broad vision and extensive experience, to whom Whitstable owes much.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. A. MARTIN,

M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., etc.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

